

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2010, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Each of the issues raised in the Office action has been considered and addressed herein.

Specification

The Office Action objected to the arrangement of the specification. The specification has been amended following the suggested guidelines set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b) by adding section headings, as well as a reference to the underlying international application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Abstract

The Office Action objected to the abstract for exceeding 150 words in length. A revised replacement abstract has been submitted herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Pending claims were objected because the numbering of claims was not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting this clerical error and renumbering claims 15-28 as claims 14-27. Applicant has amended all pending claims to update their dependencies accordingly and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 16 – 18 and 21 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, to accept subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner and thereby place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended the claims as follows:

- Independent claims 1 and 27 have been amended to better define Applicants' contribution to the art, as well as to include the limitations of dependent claim 16;
- Claim 16, as well as claims 22 and 25-26 are canceled without prejudice; and
- Independent claim 28, generally similar in scope to claim 21, rewritten in independent form, has been added.

No new matter has been introduced, support for the claim amendments and new claim 28 being found in the original claims. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is an additional fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 141270.

Dated: April 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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